



Lot 6 (Nos. I and II)

CATALOGUE
OF
A FEW IMPORTANT BOOKS,
MANUSCRIPTS & ILLUMINATIONS

THE PROPERTY OF THE
RT. HONBLE. LORD HASTINGS,
Melton Constable, Norfolk,

AND INCLUDING
THE WELL-KNOWN ENGLISH XV CENTURY MANUSCRIPT
ORDINANCES OF CHIVALRY,
ILLUSTRATING THE EXPLOITS OF HIS COLLATERAL ANCESTOR
SIR JOHN ASTLEY, K.G. (d. 1486),
AND AT ONE TIME IN THE LIBRARY OF KING EDWARD VI.

WHICH WILL BE SOLD BY AUCTION
BY MESSRS.

SOTHEYBY AND Co.

G. D. HOBSON, M.V.O. F. W. WARR, O.B.E., M.C. C. G. DES GRAZ.
Miss E. BARLOW. C. V. PILKINGTON, B.A.

Auctioneers of Literary Property & Works illustrative of the Fine Arts.

AT THEIR LARGE GALLERIES, 34 & 35, NEW BOND STREET, W. (1)

On MONDAY, the 20th of JULY, 1931,

AT 2 P.M.

MAY BE VIEWED TWO DAYS PRIOR.

CATALOGUES MAY BE HAD.

Illustrated Catalogues (9 Plates), Price 4s.

Printed by J. Davy & Sons, Ltd., 8-9, Frith-Street, Soho-square, London, England.

CONDITIONS OF SALE.

- I. The highest bidder to be the buyer. If any dispute arise the Auctioneer shall have absolute discretion to settle it; and to put any disputed lot up again.
- II. No person to advance less than 1s.; above five pounds 2s. 6d.; and so on in proportion.
- III. All lots are sold subject to the right of the seller or his agent to bid or else to impose a reserve.
- IV. The purchasers to give in their names and places of abode, and, if required, to pay down 10s. in the pound in part payment of the purchase-money, in default of which the lot or lots purchased to be immediately put up again and re-sold.
- V. The lots to be taken away, at the buyer's expense, immediately after the conclusion of the sale; in default of which Messrs. SOTHEY & Co. will not hold themselves responsible if lost, stolen, damaged, or otherwise destroyed, but they will be left at the sole risk of the purchaser. If, at the expiration of One Week after the conclusion of the sale, the books or other property are not cleared or paid for, they will then be catalogued for immediate sale, and the expenses, the same as if re-sold, will be added to the amount at which the books were bought. Messrs. SOTHEY & Co. will have the option of re-selling the lots uncleared, either by public or private sale, without any notice being given to the defaulter.
- VI. All the books are presumed to be perfect, unless otherwise expressed: but if, upon collating, any should prove defective, the purchaser will be at liberty to take or reject them, provided they are received back within Fourteen Days after the conclusion of the sale, when the purchase-money will be returned.
- VII. The sale of any book or books is not to be set aside on account of any worm holes, stained or short leaves of text or plates, want of list of plates or blank leaves, or on account of the publication of any subsequent volume, supplement, appendix, or plates. All the manuscripts, autographs, all magazines and reviews, all books in lots, and all tracts in lots or volumes, will be sold with all faults, imperfections and errors of description. The sale of any illustrated book, lot of prints or drawings, is not to be set aside on account of any error in the enumeration of the numbers stated, or error of description.
- VIII. No Imperfect Book will be taken back, unless a note accompanies each book, stating its imperfections, with the number of lot and date of the sale at which the same was purchased.
- IX. To prevent inaccuracy in the delivery, and inconvenience in the settlement of the purchases, no lot can on any account be removed during the time of sale.
- X. Upon failure of complying with the above conditions, the money required and deposited in part of payment shall be forfeited; and *if any loss is sustained in the re-selling of such lots as are not cleared or paid for, all charges on such re-sale shall be made good by the defaulters at this sale.*

Messrs. SOTHEY & Co. are prepared to advise intending purchasers, as far as possible, and will execute bids on their behalf, free of charge. Lots will be procured as cheaply as is permitted by other bids or reserves, if any.

34 & 35 New Bond Street, London, W.(1)

Telegraphic Address:

"Abinitio, Wesdo, London."

A.B.C. Code, 5th Edition.

Telephone: (3 lines)

Mayfair 6682, 6683 6684.

In sending Commissions this Catalogue may be referred to as "ENNIUS."

COMMISSIONS SENT BY TELEPHONE ARE ACCEPTED ONLY AT THE SENDER'S RISK,
AND MUST BE CONFIRMED BY LETTER OR TELEGRAM



CATALOGUE
OF
A FEW IMPORTANT BOOKS,
MANUSCRIPTS AND ILLUMINATIONS

THE PROPERTY OF THE
RT. HONBLE. LORD HASTINGS,
Melton Constable, Norfolk,
AND INCLUDING THE WELL-KNOWN
ENGLISH XV CENT. MANUSCRIPT ORDINANCES OF CHIVALRY,
ILLUSTRATING THE EXPLOITS OF HIS COLLATERAL ANCESTOR
SIR JOHN ASTLEY, K.G. (d. 1486),
AND AT ONE TIME IN THE LIBRARY OF KING EDWARD VI.

DAY OF SALE.
Monday, July 20th, 1931.

SIZES MIXED.
LOT 1.

HORAE B. V. M. AD USUM SARUM, PRINTED ON VELLUM, lettres
batardes, 84 leaves only (wanting 36 leaves in the body of the
book), six full-page cuts all finely coloured and heightened in
gold, other large and small cuts also coloured, borders uncoloured
throughout, Simon Vostre's device on title; contemporary calf, line panel
tooling in blind on sides with floreate stamp in gold at corners, in centre
a stamp of a hand holding flower spray, silk ties, Astley bookplate, names
of early owners on fly-leaf "Ja. Calthorp" and "Edw. Palmer"

4to (216 mm. by 142 mm.) Paris, Nicholas Higman for Simon
Vostre [1520]

** VERY RARE. Hoskins 56.

Lot 2.

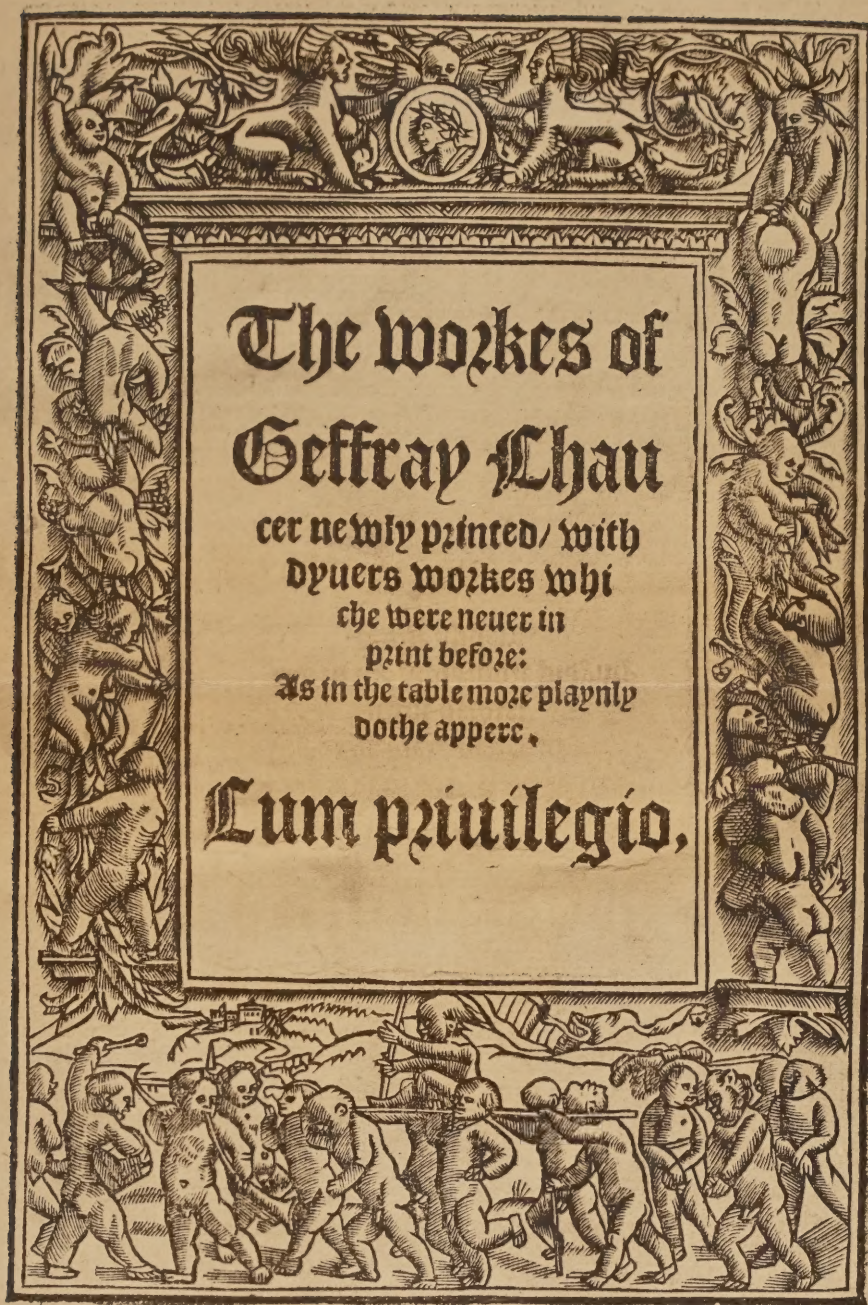
CHAUCER (G.) WORKES NEWLY PRINTED WITH DYUERS WORKES WHICHE WERE NEUER IN PRINT BEFORE, FIRST COLLECTED EDITION, *Black letter*, TWENTY WOODCUTS, *the general title and titles to the separate parts within a fine woodcut border*, 17TH CENTURY CALF BINDING, *panel in blind on sides, bookplate of Sir Jacob Astley inside cover*

folio (12 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.) LONDON, THOMAS GODFRAY, 1532

**** AN EXCEPTIONALLY FINE COPY AND EXTREMELY RARE.** The blank margin of a few leaves at beginning and end slightly water-stained; blank lower margin of some leaves at beginning very slightly wormed; small flaw in two leaves (sig. R 5 and Nn 6); a small slit in Qq 1; a small piece torn from blank margin of sig Ss 1; a fold in sig. Mmm 3 slightly affecting the text; APART FROM THESE TRIFLING DEFECTS IN VERY GOOD AND CLEAN CONDITION THROUGHOUT WITH WIDE MARGINS.

This, one of the most desirable of the really important early English books, is now one of the most difficult to acquire complete and in good state. The remarkably wide margins of the title-page, in particular, seem to have proved a temptation to owners in search of blank paper, and rare as the book is in any condition, it is long since a copy appeared for sale otherwise than with the title damaged or altogether absent. In this copy the title, in common with the rest of the book, is in admirable order.

[See ILLUSTRATION. Plate I.]





LOT 3.

HORAE B. V. M. CUM CALENDARIO. [USE OF TROYES]. MANUSCRIPT ON VELLUM, *well written in a very regular bold gothic hand, 12 lines to a page, 235 leaves (including three blanks); SEVEN LARGE AND NINE SMALL MINIATURES FINELY PAINTED IN GOLD AND COLOURS all with full borders of flowers, fruit, birds and monsters painted within geometrical compartments on white, red or gold grounds; nearly every page with a lateral border of flowers, ivy-sprays and acanthus decoration in colours and burnished gold, calendar in black and red. In a French binding (c. 1600), olive morocco, sides and back elaborately gilt, decorated with various stamps within leafy ovals, lions, roses, acorns, lilies, doves, flower sprays, eaglets, flames, suns, tears, etc.; within an oval in the centre of the upper cover FRANCISCVS, on the lower cover RAFFY. Bookplate of Sir Jacob Astley inside cover. IN FINE CONDITION*

(173 mm. by 127 mm.) FRENCH, XV CENT.

[See ILLUSTRATION. Plate II.]

Lot 4.

OVID. DE PONTO. MANUSCRIPT ON VELLUM, *written in a neat book hand, 28 lines to a page, 58 leaves, with a marginal and interlinear gloss, capitals in red and blue, in a 16th Century recessed Venetian binding in Oriental style, the raised parts covered with red morocco and gilt, the sunk compartments of irregular shape decorated with coloured arabesques on a gilt ground. In the centre of the upper cover the lion of S. Mark, on the lower cover a coat-of-arms, both in recessed compartments, rebacked* (215 mm. by 155 mm.) 1263

** Colophon at end : Explicit ouidius de ponto qui fuit script' anno dñi M°.CC°.LX°. t'cio. t'minatus a scriptore die sabbī post assumptionē bē mariē virginis. dō grās.

n'ont si eue laud
 auit au roy. C'ypion
 monques aua ne qui die
 ne est seules i mal de die
 e come que songre auenir
 qui n'estra pour fol me neq
 ar en die me auon fian
 ne songre est sig n'auene
 es biens as q'au on des auen
 ar li plus bon sonant de mu
 aintes oile qu'auonem
 ne en set pais appentent
 i uirine an de mon eage
 El pomeq'mours pnt le reage
 es ioues gure. m'achier malore
 ne murt si come se folie

Nus me in quel effort mais
 il va bien. i ans lui mais
 non ma effort si songre
 l'amps amour plain de ioy
 l'amps y tout trens sefigere
 ne on ne uot buisson ne ha
 en may puer ne se noelle
 r'ouuer de nouuelle foelle
 i les requoellent lo: urdure
 soni sei: tuit co r'ueres d'ur
 a ne m'achier songre
 our la rosee qui se moelle
 r'oublie la puer
 u elle a tout l'auer este
 o's deuant la ne si g'ole
 il uot auoir moene rotr



L'unz grans d'urc en songes
 A se fable non et men songes
 aus on pout res songes songes
 ne sont que men songes
 ne sont que men songes
 i ce plus bien n'aurz a dire
 auant qu'il ne nom m'ait

i me comore moult forment
 i vi. i. songe en mon coment
 mist malleu i me plor
 aus en tel songe tiens u ot
 au treistout aucun ne soit
 i com li songes recorsont
 i uoel tel songe rimorier
 i uoel grans fure resioner
 moures le me pue et sonde
 r se nuls ou nulle demande
 oment le uoel q'chuls romans
 ont appellees que ie romans
 est li maus liures de la roie
 u lare d'ours est toute enuole
 a m'atier est et l'ome et uoie
 i d'oult dice q'gr le resocue
 elle pout au ie lay enpas
 est celle qui trait a de pris
 i bien est digne deffre amee

LOT 5.

LORRIS (G. DE) AND J. DE MEUN. ROMAN DE LA ROSE,
ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPT ON VELLUM, VERY WELL WRITTEN
BY A FRENCH SCRIBE *in an upright gothic hand.*

Begins : Maintes gens dient que en songes
Na se fables non et mensonges . . .

Ends : Chi finerai mon dit
el nom de Ihūcrist
Et cascuns qui lora
merci a ihū crist
Et li prit humlemt
q̄ no' soyons escrist
El saint liure de vie
q'l meismes escripst.

AMEN.

Double columns, 36 lines to a page, 182 leaves. ON THE FIRST PAGE A MINIATURE OF THE AUTHOR REPOSING ON A COUCH MEDITATING ON HIS WORK (75 mm. by 70 mm.). In the foreground are his library chair and desk with writing materials, spectacles, etc. The same page is decorated with a fine bar border with semi-human grotesques, drolleries and ivy-leaf sprays in gold and colours springing from the sides and corners. On folio 153 a miniature of the Trinity (72 mm. by 63 mm.) on a diaper ground (this miniature is a little rubbed); on the same page a fine bar border with ivy-leaf sprays; on folio 181 a small miniature of the Almighty on a diaper ground (46 mm. by 57 mm.). THROUGHOUT THE MANUSCRIPT A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF INITIALS IN COLOURS ON A GROUND OF BURNISHED GOLD AND ALL WITH MARGINAL DECORATION OF IVY-SPRAYS IN GOLD AND COLOURS. Bound in French mottled calf gilt (c. 1700); bookplate of Sir Jacob Astley Bart. inside cover (322 mm. by 205 mm.) FRENCH, XV CENT.

*** A FINE MANUSCRIPT OF THIS CELEBRATED FRENCH ROMANCE AND IN AN EXCELLENT STATE OF PRESERVATION.

[See ILLUSTRATION. Plate III.]

Lot 6.

MINIATURES. FOUR MAGNIFICENT MINIATURES FROM A
XIII CENTURY FRENCH PSALTER.

- I. THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI.
- II. THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE.
- III. THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT.
- IV. THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST.

It has not been possible to identify the Manuscript to which these miniatures originally belonged. It must have been a remarkable example of the high-water mark of French illumination of the middle of the XIII Century and may still survive in some public or private collection.

The style of the miniatures shows a strong English influence, serious types of facial expression, and beautiful colouring on splendid grounds of burnished gold. The hair and beard of several of the male figures are painted blue.

The background of the first and third miniatures is very slightly rubbed. Otherwise their condition is exceptionally fine.

(each 110 mm. by 85 mm.) FRENCH, MIDDLE OF XIII CENT.

[See FRONTISPICE AND ILLUSTRATION. Plates IV and V.]



Lot 6 (Nos. III and IV)



Lot 7 (I), reduced

LOT 7.

ORDINANCES OF CHIVALRY, NAVIGATION, MEDIEVAL MANNERS AND COSTUME. ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPT ON VELLUM COMPILED FOR SIR JOHN ASTLEY, K.G. (d. 1486), VERY WELL WRITTEN IN VERNACULAR ENGLISH IN A NEAT AND LEGIBLE BOOK-HAND, *generally 28 lines to the page, 320 leaves.* BOUND FOR EDWARD VI WHEN HEIR TO THE THRONE *by a binder who worked for him and Queen Mary. Brown calf gilt with motto ICH DIEN on both covers and in the centre a rayed medallion which must once have contained the triple ostrich plume: this has at some time been removed. For a similar medallion used by Edward VI, see Davenport, p. 154. For bindings by the same craftsman see Sir A. Cope's sale, Sotheby's, 3 March, 1913, lot 6, and Mr. G. D. Hobson's "Bindings in Cambridge Libraries," plate 26. Mr. Hobson called the binder King Edward's binder. Four silk ties.*

(9 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. by 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.) ENGLISH, XV CENT.

^{} This important manuscript volume has been fully described by Lord Dillon in a paper read to the Society of Antiquaries, 14 Dec. 1899, and published in *Archaeologia*, vol. LVII, where reproductions of several of the illuminations are shown. To this very full and learned monograph we are indebted for the greater part of the description given below. An earlier account by Mr. Albert Way appeared in the "*Archaeological Journal*," vol. IV, 1847, pp. 226-239.

In the following account of the varied contents of this manuscript the sections specially relating to Chivalry and Tournaments are nos. I, VII, VIII, XIII and XIV.

I. (*folios 3-4*). THE "ABILMENT FOR THE JUSTUS OF THE PEES," followed by "To crie a Justus of Pees," "The comyng into the felde," etc. These pieces contain the routine of a jousting such as was commonly performed in the 15th and 16th Centuries. In the two accounts of equipment given here and in section VII it must be noted that the Justus of Pees is, as its title implies, the armament of a man preparing for an encounter which was not expected to have fatal results, though that sometimes happened. It was quite different from the armament of a man who on foot was about to sustain or refute the truth of a serious accusation. For this man there were, unless the sovereign intervened, only the alternatives of success or death, either at the hands of his opponent or by the executioner.

This section is preceded by two leaves, the first of which is blank: the second gives a full-page illumination of a joust at the tilt at the moment when the two riders have shivered their lances on each other's helms, but with no apparent injury to either of the combatants

Lot 7—*continued*.

[**Plate VI**]. The crests are good examples of the fanciful erections often worn at tournaments, of which few real examples still remain. The rider on the proper right is Sir John Astley, as can be seen from the crest, a crowned harpy. The other rider has a crest of three maidens in a sort of basket and the cross of S. George on his targe. Both have as attendant a mounted squire and in the fore-ground is an attendant on foot in a red jacket and white hose with black shoes. The tilt is composed of six planks and is apparently about five feet high. In the centre of the spectators behind a wall forming the background is a lady with large butterfly headdress accompanied by five attendants.

II (*folios 5-11*). A table for calculating expenses by the day and year; a sort of medieval ready reckoner.

III (*folios 12-13*). The Assize of Bread and Ale, and the names of various weights and measures.

IV (*folios 14-15 and 24A*). A Poem on the coronation of Henry VI (1429) describing the procession and giving the bill of fare of the feast.

V (*folios 16-23A*). The maner and the forme of the Coronation of Kyngis and Quenes in Engeland.

VI (*folios 25-121B*). An English translation of Vegetius, made by direction of Lord Thomas Berkeley, and completed on All Hallows' Eve, 1408. The first two pages have fine illuminated borders (somewhat cut into) and in the lower margin of the first is the coat-of-arms of Sir John Astley; quarterly, 1 and 4, azure a cinquefoil pierced ermine (Astley); 2 and 3, gules two bars or (Harcourt). Numerous illuminated initials with foliate marginal decoration.

VII (*folios 122B-123B*). HOW A MAN SCHALL BE ARMYD AT HIS ESE WHEN HE SCHAL FIGHTE ON FOOTE.

The upper half of folio 122B is occupied by a very rare representation of the arming of a man who is about to fight on foot [**Plate VII**]. He is standing in one of the small houses or huts erected close to the lists for this purpose, and at the moment chosen by the artist a considerable portion of the panoply has been already donned. On the board and trestles at his right hand lie the remaining portions of the equipment. This miniature is reproduced by Mr. ffoulkes (*The Armourer and his Craft*, 1912, pl. XIX): he also quotes (p. 107) an extract from f. 122B of this manuscript "How a man schall be armed," etc. On folio 123B is a description of the furnishing of the field as regards refreshment and repairs for a man's armour in the event of damage. The text of these three pages, according to Mr. Way, "is more ancient than the copy in a MS. in the British Museum (Lansdowne MS. 285), communicated to Archaeologia by Mr. Douce (vol. xvii, p. 295); well known as having supplied to Sir Samuel Meyrick the text





Erlwik lieth southe and north. of golde
 stoncs. the ylonde and berwik haue. hinc
 west north west and est southe est. And
 fro vamborow to the poynne of the ylonde
 the cours lieth north and southe and belvare of the
 goldestoncs. hit floweth north north west. and quarter
 tide. be oltym. fro tishuoth to feyn ylonde. the cours is
 north north west. and south south est. & tishuoth is tide
 north est. and southe west. betwene the hedlonde. And
 hounders fore. the cours is north west and south est.
 And it floweth west southe west. and est north est. And
 at whitopes halfe. And fro hounde clif fore. to humbyr
 the cours is southe est and besouthe north west and be
 north. fro leyrces to the hedesound. the cours is north
 north west and southe south est. At the hedlonde the
 streame setteth north west and southe est. And it flow
 eth on the londe of holdurnes north est and quarter
 tide. in the fairway. And at hedlonde quarter tide &
 half. And yf ye goo fro leyrces to the schelde ye schal
 goo est southe est. for to goo cleue of fcsand. and be
 southe. And yf ye haue an ebbe goo southe est & be est.
 And yf ye goo fro the spone to the schelde. and at the
 wynde be at north west y^e cours is southe est. till ye
 be passid weite banke. And in weite it floweth est and
 west and ther gooth half streem vnder rothir. And at
 the schelde it floweth on the londe west north west.
 And half streem vnder rothir be the londe till ye co
 me to Wynterborresse and fro Wynterborresse. till ye



LOT 7—*continued*.

of a most instructive and interesting treatise regarding military costume, which has afforded valuable aid to antiquarians throughout Europe in this obscure subject of research.”—*op. cit.* p. 234.

VIII (*folios* 124-130A). The Epistle to Richard II by Thomas Duke of Gloucester (d. 1397) concerning the rules for jousts and tournaments.

IX (*folios* 130B-138). Folio 130B has a fine full-page picture of ships, rowing boats [**Plate VIII**] followed by sailing directions from Berwick-on-Tweed to Holyhead and sailing directions for the Bay of Biscay. In the lower margin of folio 131 is the coat-of-arms of Sir John Astley as on folio 25 and on folio 138B is a nearly full-page picture of a ship taking soundings.

X (*folios* 139-195A). An English translation in verse of Aristotle's *Secreta Secretorum*, by JOHN LYDGATE and BENEDICT BURGH. The first leaf is missing; the text begins with the concluding lines of the seventh stanza :

Thorow all Grece namyd lorde and sire
And bi conquest holde the hool empire.

Numerous illuminated initials with foliate marginal decoration.

XI (*folios* 195B-198). How Knyghtis of the bath shulde be made.

XII (*folios* 200-274). The Pistill of Othea the goddesse the whiche sent it to Hector whā he was .xv. yer of age.

A verse translation from the French with three fine miniatures.

(i) *folio* 200. The goddess appearing from a cloud and delivering her epistle to the youthful Hector. In a corner of the miniature is a coat-of-arms (sable, two lions rampant affrontés, or).

(ii) *folio* 202. A fight between three men and three devils [**Plate VII**].

(iii). A King seated on his throne holding a sword. Gaolers holding two naked prisoners before him.

On the last leaf are the armorial ensigns of Sir John Astley. On a blank leaf at the beginning (*folio* 199) is a recipe in a 16th Century hand “To make aqua cōposyta.” One leaf (*folio* 205) is defective.

XIII (*folios* 275-279A). The Challenges of Pierre de Masse and Philip Boyle and the results of their combats with Sir John Astley in 1438 and 1441-42. These pages are in a different hand to the former part of the book. THEY ARE ILLUSTRATED WITH TWO FULL-PAGE MINIATURES OF GREAT INTEREST.

(i) *folio* 275B. A FULL-PAGE MINIATURE OF A MOUNTED COMBAT BETWEEN PIERRE DE MASSE AND SIR JOHN ASTLEY IN PARIS. This

Lot 7—*continued*.

fight took place on 29 Aug. 1438 before the French King Charles VII in "Seyntantonne strette" near the Place de la Bastille and the scene probably presents us with a view of the Bastille which was erected by Charles V in 1369.

In the foreground are the populace perched on the house-tops, while to the left is the battlemented gateway of the Bastille, at the windows of which are seen ladies. There does not appear to have been an enclosed space, but as in many foreign instances the Knights rode along the tilt erected in the open street. The King is seated at a window with one attendant, while courtiers view the combat from adjacent windows, and trumpeters sound fanfares from the house-tops. Sir John Astley is on the near side of the tilt with his squire in the fore-ground. Beneath the windows at which the King and court are seen stand two heralds, the one bearing the French arms on his tabard, the other the arms of Astley. THIS REMARKABLE PICTURE IS A VERY INTERESTING RECORD OF SUCH SCENES.

(ii) *folio 277B*. A companion full-page miniature of great interest [Plate IX]. It represents another class of combat, a fight with axes between SIR JOHN ASTLEY AND PHILIP BOYLE OF ARAGON, which took place in Smithfield, 30 Jan. 1441-42. On the same spot another famous fight took place between Lord Scales and the Bastard of Burgundy in June, 1467, on which occasion Sir John Astley was of the Lord Scales's "Counsell."

REPRESENTATIONS OF FOOT COMBATS WITH AXES ARE EXTREMELY RARE. Examples are to be found in Rous's *Life of the Earl of Warwick* (Cott. MS. Julius E. IV) engraved by Shaw in his *Dresses and Costumes*, and in the Douce MS. 271 in the Bodleian engraved in vol. 56 of the Roxburghe Club.

In the present picture King Henry VI is seated as judge with three attendants in a sort of grand-stand reached by a flight of five steps from the ground of the lists which are formed by stout posts and rails with sliding bars. At the foot of the steps stand four men in armour with long-handled axes. In the lists stand the two combatants and a herald wearing a tabard of the King's arms. The Aragonese Knight and Sir John Astley are both in full armour with surcoats of their respective arms and holding two-handled axes. The picture shows the beginning of the fight. The populace are separated from the lists by a hoarding over which they lean. In the left-hand corner of the picture is the artist's idea of St. Bartholomew's church, and in the upper centre of the picture may be Newgate.

XIV (*folios 279B-280A*). The oath of a herald on appointment.

XV (*folios 280B-292*). Prognostications of the weather, a calendar, astrological tables and diagrams. *Folios* 291-2 are blank. This and the preceding section are in different hands.



Lot 7 XIII (ii), reduced

LOT 7—*continued*.

XVI (*folios* 293-320). Parvus Cato and Magnus Cato, translated into English rime royal by BENEDICT BURGH, (fl. 1472), each stanza headed by a couplet from the original Latin in red.

Parvus Cato begins :

“Whan I adv’tise in my remembraunce
An see how felle folke erren greuously . . .”

Magnus Cato begins :

“For thi that god is inwardly the witte
Of man and zeueth him undirstonding.”

On the last page, folio 320B, are written several recipes in later hands.

OWNERSHIP. Little is known of Sir John Astley, the original owner of the manuscript, apart from the fact that he was famous in the 15th Century for feats of arms at tournaments and jousts. He was the son of Sir Thomas Astley, Knight, of Nailston, County Leicester, by Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Robert Harcourt, and lady of Patteshull. Two prominent events in Sir John’s life form the subjects of two of the illustrations, and he appears to have been elected a Knight of the Garter in 1461. That he was an accomplished knight and good authority on the subject of single combats we have evidence in the fact of his being, with others, appointed as intendant for the armourer’s apprentice John David, when in Oct. 1446, he overcame his master and opponent William Catur. In May, 1453, he was appointed by the King as council for John Lyalton in his fight with Robert Norreys in Smithfield, the scene of one of Sir John’s own successful fights. Various monetary grants were made to him between 1461 and 1466 and in 1463 he was authorised to take all kinds of victuals necessary for the victualling of the King’s castle of Alnwick. He was present at the funeral of Edward IV in 1483 and died between Michaelmas, 1486 and 8 Nov. of that year, being buried at Patshull.

In what precise circumstances, after Sir John Astley’s death, the manuscript

(a) passed from the Astley heirs to Edward VI, or at any rate came to be bound for him by his binder, and

(b) returned into the possession of the Astleys,
there is no record to show. But we have very sound material for conjecture.

Sir John Astley’s heiress was his first cousin, Joan, Baroness Astley, who married Reginald, 3rd Lord Grey de Ruthyn. Her great-great-grandson Sir Henry de Grey, Marquess of Dorset, was prominent at court during the minority of Edward VI, to whom he was closely related by marriage, his wife Frances, daughter and heiress of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, being Henry VIII’s niece. It is natural to suppose

Lot 7—*continued.*

that the manuscript was presented by him to Edward. It was an entirely appropriate one for the library of a young English prince of the period, and Sir John Astley must have been well known personally to Henry VII and by name to Henry VIII.

Dorset was himself created Duke of Suffolk in 1551 and survived the young king, but for a short time only, as he was attainted and beheaded in 1553. If he recovered the book before his death, it no doubt passed to his niece Margaret Grey, who married in 1563 a later Sir John Astley (of the younger branch of the family, descended from the second marriage of Thomas Lord Astley in 1236). If on the other hand the book remained in the possession of the Crown after Edward VI's death, it was doubtless presented either by Queen Elizabeth to Sir John Astley, husband of Margaret Grey (he was the Queen's first cousin once removed through his mother, an aunt of Anne Boleyn), or by James I to their son Sir John Astley of the next generation, who was Master of Ceremonies at Court. It will since have passed by inheritance within the Astley family to the present owner, Sir A. E. D. Astley, 11th Bt. and 21st Lord Hastings.

The following early memoranda are written on the fly-leaf "Thomas Fytzhugh port azur a fesse inter 3 buckets sable hooped or," "Bryan Tunstall," "Thomas Tunstall," and the distich.

Qui a autrui fait ce quil ne doit
Ce lui aduient quil ne vouldroit. R.P.

Inside the upper cover is the armorial bookplate of Jacob Astley Armig. of Melton-Constable.

CONDITION. A few leaves containing marginal decoration have been slightly cut into, but the damage is in no case material. OTHERWISE THE MANUSCRIPT IS IN REMARKABLY GOOD CONDITION THROUGHOUT. Lord Dillon suggests in his paper that the colours have deteriorated through time and other causes. But with all respect to his authority, it seems to us that they are in very much the same condition as in the XV Century. It may be noted that in the case of the two miniatures in Section XIII the colour has been very sparingly applied.

The above account is based almost exclusively on the paper read to the Society of Antiquaries by Lord Dillon already referred to and consists mainly of verbatim extracts from it.

NO MANUSCRIPT OF EQUAL INTEREST AND IMPORTANCE AS A RECORD OF THE CHIVALRY OF MEDIEVAL ENGLAND AND THE CUSTOMS OF THE COURT HAS BEEN OFFERED FOR SALE FOR MANY YEARS.

[See ILLUSTRATIONS and PEDIGREE opposite.]

END OF SALE.

SHORT SUMMARY OF THE ASTLEY PEDIGREE.

